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some instances those monopolizers defeated their own schemes, by privately underselling each other.

The company of undertakers of the Lagan Navigation have met with a check in their plans by the verdict of a jury at Drumbridge, who gave very large damages for land, thro' which they intended to cut. The value was certainly very much above the fair estimate between landlord and tenant, but circumstances in some measure are considerably altered by a compulsory sale, when the owners are compelled to part with their land, whether they will or not. It is well that the undertakers of this work should receive a salutary check in their plans of cutting up land. Their schemes appeared more calculated for unsettled countries, in which land is of little value than for this district, in which the population is so great; and their managers seemed well inclined to ride rough shod over the country, and with a high hand force a compliance with their measures whether ill or well planned or executed. Their attempt some time ago to divert the course of the river Lagan near Magheralin, shewed to what extent they would go, if they met with no obstruction. A good canal would doubtless be of service to the public, but private property ought not to be sacrificed to the schemes of public utility, under the pretext that the proprietors are disinterested and do not expect to make profit to themselves. The direct profit may not afford a large dividend for some years, but it cannot be reasonably supposed that men would differ so total from their former habits, and not look for an indirect profit by other means. They calculate on an increase of the trade of Belfast, in which most of them are thro' one channel or another interested. Their vaunted services to the public, are no otherwise to be estimated than other cases of trafficking, when men engage in an expected profitable commercial adventure, in which the merchant seeking to serve himself, may incidentally benefit the community, by facilitating the exchange of the commodities of a country. The merchant, who sells his hogshead of sugar, or his bale of barilla, or the linendraper, who sells his box of linens, may thus incidentally add to the stock of national wealth, while he thinks only of serving himself. So only and not more do the proprietors of the Lagan navigation benefit the public, and private emolument either direct, or indirect, may fairly be considered as their object. They are justly entitled to pay the utmost value for the land which they require for their purposes. Without a very ample recompense, private property would be very materially injured, in carrying their projected plans into execution, as has already been the case in some instances.

Exchange on London, both in Belfast and Dublin, has been very low, thro' this month, fluctuating between  $5\frac{1}{4}$  and  $6\frac{1}{4}$  per cent.

## NATURALIST'S REPORT.

*From the 20th April, to the 20th May, 1813.*

- April 21, Awl-leaved Phlox (*Phlox subulata*), flowering.  
 22, Saw four Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*), and brown Butterfly with whitish spots (*Papilio ogeria*).  
 30, Mediterranean heath (*Erica Mediterranea*), and Yellow Azalea (*Azalea pontica*), flowering.
- May 1, Hare-bells (*Scilla nutans*), Broom (*Spartium scoparium*), Tuberos vetch (*Orobus tuberosus*), common white Lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*), flowering.  
 5, Rail (*Gallinula Crex*), and Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*), calling. Aconite-leaved Geranium (*Geranium Aconitifolius*), shining leaved Geranium (*Geranium lucidum*), flowering, and Apple-trees coming into flower.  
 6, Strawberries flowering, several Rails and Cuckoos calling.  
 7, Germander speedwell (*Veronica chamædrys*), flowering. White Throat (*Motacilla cinerea*), come and singing.  
 9, Germander leaved spiræa (*Spiræa chamædryfolia*), purple Lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*), and Laburnum (*Cytisus Laburnum*), flowering.  
 12, Horse-chestnut (*Æsculus hippocastanum*), flowering.

- 13, Saw two Swifts (*Hirundo apus*), and the Reed Bird, or Sedge Warbler (*Motacilla salicaria*).
- 14, Blue mountain Centaury (*Centaurea montana*), yellow Asphodel (*Asphodelus luteus*), Poetic Narcissus (*Narcissus poeticus*), and wood Geranium, (*Geranium Sylvaticum*), flowering.
- 15, Hypericum leaved Spiræa (*Spiræa hypericifolia*), and Savoy Spiderwort (*Phalangium liliastrum*), flowering.
- 16, Mule Pœny, (*Pœnia hybrida*) flowering; orange tip Butterfly (*Papilio cardamines*), appearing.
- 17, Hawthorn (*Cratægus oxyacantha*), and Wood loose strife (*Lysimachia nemorum*), flowering.
- 18, Herrings (*Clusea Herengus*), brought to Belfast market.

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### METEOROLOGICAL REPORT.

*From the 20th April, to the 20th May, 1813.*

- April 21—24,...Fine days.  
 25,...Cloudy with some showers.  
 26,...Wet and stormy.  
 27,...Very high wind during last night, and a stormy day with sleet falling and snow lying on the mountains and hills; in the morning the ground was covered even in the low-lands  
 28,...Dry, with a cold wind.  
 29—30,...Fine days.
- May 1,...Fine day.  
 2,...Dark day with showers.  
 3,...Dark dry day.  
 4,...Showery.  
 5—6,...Dry.  
 7,...Dark day, wet afternoon.  
 8,9,10,...Showery.  
 11—12,...Wet.  
 13,...Showery.  
 14,...Fine.  
 15,...Fine day, wet afternoon.  
 16—18,...Cloudy, dry.  
 19,...Showery.  
 20,...Wet morning.

The range of the Barometer has been remarkably small during this period, the highest state was 30.5 on the 24th of April; the lowest 29.6 on the 14th, 15th and 20th of May, the rest of the time it varied little from 30.

The Thermometer has varied more than usual, at one time it was equal to Summer heat, and at another the cold of Winter threatened to nip and destroy every tender plant. On the 12th, 13th, 14th and 15th of May the Thermometer stood as high as 56° at 8 A.M. On the 28th of April it was at only 37°; on the 16th it stood at 49°.

The wind has been observed 15 times N.E., 7 E., 11 S.E., 2 N.W., 4 S.W., so that the great prevalence has been Easterly.

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### CELESTIAL PHENOMENA.

FOR JUNE, 1813.

On the 1st, the Moon is seen in the evening in west-north-west, under the two first stars of the Twins and Jupiter, evidently directing her course near to the planet. On the 2d, she is seen under and near to Jupiter, whom she passes at thirty-nine minutes past nine; and this appearance will amuse the evening's walk.